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Defining Rape at the International Criminal Court: A Holistic Account of Gender-Justice

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Defining Rape at the International Criminal Court: A Holistic Account of Gender-Justice

Dr Eithne Dowds



The Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo 2016, represents the first, and as yet the ONLY, conviction before the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crime of rape.

Ms Fatou Bensouda, Chief Prosecutor at the ICC, has actively condemned rape and sexual violence perpetrated in conflict and committed to prioritising these crimes in her prosecution strategy. (Office of the Prosecutor, *Policy Paper on Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes*, June 2014)



My research provides a holistic account of gender justice at the international criminal level by examining the way in which the crime of rape is being defined in international cases.



QUESTION:
Should the absence of consent be an element of an international criminal definition of rape?
If so, how should we define consent?

